Shortage of Engineers and Aviation Specialists in IAF

1081. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of engineers and aviation specialists in Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in this regard in view of the global situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) While there is an overall shortage of aeronautical engineers in the Indian Air Force, the satisfaction level of engineers in combat and high-tech units is maintained almost at 100% level by making some internal adjustments.

Sustained publicity efforts are on to attract talented youth to the IAF. Schools and Colleges are visited to generate interest. A website is also operative on the interest to provide career information.

Offensive Measures against Militants in Kashmir

1082. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the details of offensive measures taken/proposed by the Army and other Security agencies to launch a massive anti-militant operation in Kashmir frontier since October, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): The offensive measures being adopted in the Counter Proxy War operations in Jammu and Kashmir since October 2001, include a multi pronged proactive approach to effectively counter infiltration and the conduct of synergised counter proxy war operations in the hinterland, based on real time intelligence. In addition to extensive area domination, operations are being launched on the one hand to specifically target foreign terrorists, and on the other, due care is also being exercised to conduct people friendly

operations. From 1st October 2001 till 26th November 2001, 400 militants were killed in anti-militant operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

Operation Sadbhavana by Defence Services

1083. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that defence services have carried out Operation Sadbhavana in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, details of the schools covered and the number of students undergoing studies in these schools; and

(c) how much expenditure has been incurred on the Operation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Army has been undertaking civic action projects in Jammu and Kashmir, under Operation SADBHAVANA. The details of schools newly constructed/revived under Operation SADBHAVANA during the financial year 2000-2001 are as under:—

(i)	Schools Newly Constructed	15
(ii)	Schools Revived	21
(iii)	Total number of Students Studying in the Newly Constructed and Revived Schools	6630

(c) During the period 1998—2001, Rs. 16 Crore have been spent on Operation SADBHAVANA Projects, from the Ministry of Defence budget.